ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Shelby Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

MONTEVALLO CHURCH,

SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA,

September 15th and 17th, 1877.

OFFICERS :

J. M. KIDD, ... Moderator.
C. W. O'HARA, ... Secretary.

WARE & HENDERSON, PRINTERS—TALLADEGA.

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Shelby Missionary Baptist Association.

The Association convened with Montevallo Church, Shelby County Alabama, on Saturday, the 15th day of Sept., 1877.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. H. R. Carden, from the 10th verse, of the 8th chapter of Paul to the Romans.

The delegates assembled in the church at 3 o'clock and were called to order by the former moderator Eld. E. B. Teague.

Prayer was offered by Eld. J. M. Langston.

On motion Col. W. F. Wilkinson, Editor of the Shelby Guide, was invited to take a seat at the table at his pleasure.

The letters from the churches were read and the names of the delegates enrolled. (See Table.)

Opened a door for the reception of churches.

J. M. Kidd and H. W. Bowers were appointed tellers, who after having received the vote; announced J. M. Kidd, elected Moderator and C. W. O'Hara, Secretary.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES.

On Devotion.—R. W. Nolen and S. J. Perry from Montevallo church, H. W. Bowers, and Wm. Lucus from the 1st District and Robert Seal and J. M. Taylor from the 2nd District; for the arrangement of which, see (Appendix E.)

On motion, ordered that there be a collection taken up, after the 11 o'clock sermon on Sunday for some benevolent object.

On Documents.—E. B Teague, H. W. Bowers, T. M. Mills, T. B. Dison and J. W. Dodson.

On Sabbath Schools.—J. H. R. Carden, C. W. O'Hara and T. B. Dison.

On Finance.—H. W. Bowers, J. C. McElroy and H. C. Reynolds.

INVITING VISITING MINISTERS TO SEATS.

Eld. J. M. Langston from the Mulberry, and J. D. Mills from the Canaan, being present, accepted the invitation. and were welcomed among us—the moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship.

APPOINTED A COMMITTEE ON MISSION.

E. B. Teague, J. C. McElroy and J. H. R. Carden. Appointed the next session of this Association to be held with Liberty church 12 miles north of Columbiana.

On motion, ordered that the funds which may be collected on Sabbath be applied to missions as the Association may direct; the donors however, allowed to designate the object if they choose to do so.

On motion, adopted the order of business of the last session for the order of the present.

The Pastor of the Methodist church kindly tendered the use of the Methodist house of worship to the Association; which was gratefully accepted.

On motion, received correspondence. From the Mulberry Association—Elder J. M Langston with letter and minutes. After prayer by Elder T. B. Dison the Association adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY, Sept. 16.

The services of the day were conducted in the order prescribed by the committee on Devotion. The services were attended by large and attentive congregations. May much good be the result of the days services.

MONDAY, Sept. 17.

Association met. Prayer was offered by Eld W. W. Armstrong. Called the roll and noted absentees.

On motion, the Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

Amended the 8th Art. of the Constitution by inserting the words "and ordain" after the word license, and the words "of ordination" after the word cases.

On motion, Bro. Thornton Fancher, from Union church was received as a delegate, although not appointed by the church.

The report of the committee on Sabbath Schools was received, adopted and the committee discharged. (See Appen. A.)

The report of the committee on Missions was received, adopted and the committee discharged. (See Appen. B.)

The report of the committee on Documents was received, adopted and the committee discharged. (See Appen C.)

Motion was made to answer the querry from Bellevue church; but upon the vote being taken, the motion was lost

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended, in order to hear from delegates from Cahaba Valley church, asking for restoration to our union Motion was made to restore the church; but upon hearing from the delegates and finding that the church was not with us in faith and practice, taking the vote the motion was lost.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Mud Creek Association.—Elder E. B. Teague, Elder T. B Dison and J. C. McElroy; Teague to write

To the Mulberry.—J. C. McElroy, Thornton Fancher and H. C. Reynolds; McElroy to write.

To the Cahaba Valley.—Elder C. W. O'Hara and W. C. Wilder; O'Hara to write.

To the Canaan.—H. W. Bowers and Elder J. H. R. Carden; Bowers to write.

Appointed a committee to nominate delegates to the State Convention, viz: E. B. Teague, J. H. R. Carden and H. C. Reynolds.

After prayer by Elder J. D. Mills, adjourned until 15 minutes past 1 o clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer was offered by Elder T. M. Mills.

Appointed Elder E. B. Teague to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next session, Elder T. B. Dison alt.

The report of the committee to nominate delegates to the State Convention was received and adopted. The following were appointed: Elders J. H. R. Carden, W. W. Armstrong, J. G. Sayers, C. W. O'Hara, T. B. Dison, T. M. Mills, J. M. Kidd, H. C. Reynolds, H. W. Bowers and J. M. Taylor.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Association earnestly recommend to the Baptist in its bounds, the supplying of religious reading to their families in the form of news papers. We especially recommend the Alabama Baptist as furnishing more denominational information than any o her; and as a Sunday School paper Kind Words, containing, constantly the International Lesson and exposition, as well as reading matter, appropriate for

children. The Baptist cost $2.50, to ministers $2.00. Kind Words, single copy weekly $1.00, clubs of 10 at 63 cts. semi-monthly 75 cts. clubs of 10 at 33 cts. monthly 50 cts. clubs of 10 at 16 cts.

There being conflicting rumors in reference to the status of Bellevue Church, motion was made to call for the facts in the premises which was carried.

After some investigation and failing to ascertain such facts as would enable the Association to take action, the matter was laid on the table, indefinitely leaving it for time to correct; neither endorsing nor vindicating the church.

Directed that the Secretary superintend the printing of 300, copies of these minutes, reserve 30 copies for correspondence, transcribe the present minute in the Association Book and that he receive $15.80 for his services.

The report of the committee on Finance was received, adopted and the committee discharged. (See Appendix D.)

Directed that the funds collected on Sunday for missions, be paid over to the Secretary, to be by him sent to the State Board at Talladega, to be applied to the District in which is this Association.

Resolved, That we return hearty thanks to the church and community for their generous hospitality to members of the Association and to the Methodist church for the use of their house of worship during the session of the Association.

After singing a hymn, while the Delegates extended to each other the parting hand and prayer by Elder E. B. Teague, the Association adjourned *sine die*.

J. M. KIDD, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Secretary.

(APPENDIX A.)

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools report: That there is nothing communicated in reference to Sabbath Schools except from three churches, which report flourishing schools. From this we conclude that most of the churches are asleep on this important subject; which is a matter of grief to us, holding as we do the great importance of instructing our children and raising them up in the fear of the Lord.

We would recommend that the members of the churches search the scriptures diligently, upon this subject; that they may be enabled to realize the obligations which they are under.

We would further recommend that not only the children be gathered together in the Sabbath School; but that all church members become students in the Sabbath School; thereby setting an example worthy of imitation by the children.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. R. CARDEN, Chairman.

(Appendix B.)

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The Command, "*Go teach all nations*" has been specially heeded this century. The Bible has been translated into many tongues, insomuch that parts of it may now be read in almost every important language and dialect under the sun. Copies have been circulated by the billion. Thousands of Missionaries have gone to India, China, Japan and Africa and the isles of the sea also. Our people have been next to the Moravians in this work; but almost by a common impulse every great denomination of Christians have emulated each other in carrying the Gospel where it has not been. We have Missionaries in China, Africa and Italy, abroad; our northern brethren in Japan also. Probably they are destined at no distant day to accomplish as great a work in China and Japan as they have accomplished in India. China however is by a sort of tacit understanding, left mainly to us. We have nearly a million of people to co-operate in the work. Hitherto but a faction of these, comparatively, in the towns and cities have carried it on. The work however is extending to the country; and little more than system is demanded to bring all the tithes into the store house. Let us be a part of the sacramental host. At home, Texas, now a great Baptist State may be pointed to as an illustration of the utility of the Home Mission Board. Lyon, Huckins, Hill, Creith and their co-laborers won the State for Christ, and dotted it over with churches. It is now proposed, while continuing the great work of occupying new territory and seizing on upspringing centers of population by the Central Board—to provide for home destitution more thoroughly by State Boards Rev. T. M. Baily in this State is general Evangelist and S. S. Agent. The State is districted into five parts, in which, by the co-operation of the Associations and churches it is proposed to place as many other laborers of the same sort. Let this double work be supplimented by larger pastorial support so as to loose the hands of pastors for work in outside neighborhoods and all is done. You say the expense is too vast. No, but a little is required from *every body*—less than the expense now incurred for things that in no way add to health or comfort, therefore unnecessary. All this is suggestive merely. The State Board does not propose to coerce anybdy; neither does or has any Board ever sought to do this. Shelby, Coosa River, Carey, Central, Tallaschatchie and Ten Islands Associations are suggested as the field for one Evangelist in which bounds it is proposed to find the support of the laborer. The State Board desires the co-operotion of the Associations and Churches in their bounds, so far as they can find the means in consistency with other obligations, Therefore

Resolved, 1. That Shelby Association without obligating herself in the premises lend her influence, in all scriptural ways to encourage the work.

Resolved, 2. That while jealously guarding the independence of the churches, this Association will ever be gratified, to see them, one and all co-operating with the State Board in the supply of all destitution in their vicinities.

E. B TEAGUE, Chairman.

(Appendix C.)

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

The Committee on Documents find worthy of note in the papers coming under their review.

1. Licensure by the Church at Montevallo of W. B. Hare. now at the Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentuckey and of Isaac Walker, by Dogwood Grove Church.

2. The application of Enon Church for a letter of dismission to join another Association. The application is in the most brotherly and affectionate terms, and we recommend that it be granted. The motive assigned is convenience.

3. We note an unusually small number of Baptisms reported, only 32. The increase of membership is 37

But few of the churches report a prosperous condition. So far as indicated by the letters, but one church has contributed any considerable sum for missionary purposes. Others have done so, in some cases we know; but made no report. We recommend full reports in the future.

4. The letter from Bellevue Church is without statistics. A query comes up from this church. "What is a true Missionary Baptist Church and its practices."

E. B. TEAGUE, Chairman.

(Appendix D.)

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee report:

Amount sent up for Minutes	$ 16.75
" " " " Associational Purposes	11.55.
" collected on Sabbath for Missions	15.95.
" pledged to the Board of Evangelist by the Montevallo Church	25.00.
Has paid to Indian Missions	5.00.
" " " Theological Seminary	7.00.
Sunday School has paid to home Missions	5.00.
Ladies Mission Society has paid to Bro. T. M. Baily.	3.50.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. BOWERS,
J. C. McELROY. } Com.

(Appendix E.)

ARRANGEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVOTION.

Preaching Saturday night by Elder J. M. Langston Sunday School at 9 o'clock Sunday morning. Preaching at 11 o'clock, at the Baptist church by Elder E. B. Teague; at the Methodist church by Elder C. W. O'Hara. Sunday night by T. B. Dison. Monday night by Elder J. D. Mills.

The District meeting for the 1st District will be held with New Antioch Church on Saturday before 3rd Sabbath in July 1878. The District meeting for the 2nd District, will be held with Mt. Calvary Church on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in August 1878.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES. Ordained Ministers marked 1, Licentiates marked 2, Absentees marked 3.	Sab. of preching	Baptised	Rec'd by letter	Restored	Dis. by letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total members	Money sent up
FIRST DISTRICT.												
Dogwood Grove	T B Dison	Montevallo	E Lovelady, Wm Lovelady, J Lucus, I Walker, 2	2	7	1	1	2		1	101	4 00
Enon	J M Langston	Six Mile	G Jones, J E Jones, 3 J W Arnold		8	1		6	3	1	56	1 50
Montevallo	E B Teague	Montevallo	H C Reynolds, T B Dison, 1, R W Nolen	3	1	4		2		1	35	3 00
New Antioch	J D Mills	"	J Champion, 3, Wm Champion, Jas Booth	3				5	1		40	1 00
Union, Bibb		Day Mill	Thornton Fancher, without letter								7	25
Union, Shelby	G T Lee	Helena	Wm Lucus, H W Bowers, T J Winfield, 3	1	2	10		2		2	30	2 00
Bellview	T M Mills	Tannehill	J C McElroy, T M Mills, 1. Richard Rodgers, 3	2							26	50
SECOND DISTRICT.												[J R Ray.
Bethesda	C W O'Hara	Wilsonville	W W Armstrong, 1, C W O'Hara 1, J M Taylor, W C Powell.	3	6	2	2	7	1		97	3 00
Beaver Creek	J H R Carden	Columbiana	R Seal, J A Gould. 3. Wm Seal	3	3	2		1	1		21	1 50
Columbiana	E B Teague	"	E B Teague, J M Kidd, Wm McMath, 3	2		7		6			17	1 50
Hopewell	W W Armstro'g	"	Wesley Armstrong, M E B Jones, 3, Jesse Keith, 3	4	2	3		3	4		43	2 00
Mt. Calvary	"	"	C L Mooney, Wm Acker, N Thomas, 3	2	2	10		8	2	1	49	2 75
Liberty	T B Holcomb	"	T P Holcomb 1, 3, J H R Carden, 1, R Seal, J W Dodson	1	1	22	3	3		1	126	5 55

☞NOTE—Six Mile having been dismissed and Salem dissolved, their names do not appear in the above list. The previous total is given of Bellview Church owing to the statistics not being given in the letter.